

provided between an inner liner 10 and a second foam material 30. The inner liner 10 can be attached to the first foam material 20 by lamination, stitch or ultra sonically bonded or the like. The second foam material 30 is a germicidal antimicrobial reticulated and/or hydrophilic open cell foam and has a thickness of approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch. The first foam material is also preferably germicidal reticulated or open cell hydrophilic and has a thickness of approximately  $\frac{1}{16}$  to  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch. All of the foam materials used in the present invention are assumed to be breathable and their thicknesses variable. Depending upon the application, some of the foam materials may not be used and the thickness of any foam material that is used can be changed as needed. For example, a foam called Aquazone by Foamex, Comfortemp by Frisby or Netsorb by Vita Olympic or the like can be used. Preferably, the germicidal antimicrobial hydrophilic or reticulated foam is attached to a nonwoven top sheet made of Lycra (an elastomeric stretch fiber), wood pulp and cotton, polypropylene, polyester, or rayon or a combination thereof. Otherwise, this two part structure can be replaced with an elastomeric composite having a foam with a nonwoven top sheet formed in a single process. Preferably, in either case, the nonwoven top sheet is one manufactured by Dupont (Sontara Technology nonwoven), Dexter Synthetics, Veritex, Nordlys or the like.

Page 6, the second full paragraph, lines 18 through 22, replace the paragraph with:

The first fabric is an antimicrobial, antifungal polypropylene (also referred to as polyolefin) Lycra blend (2%) with INNOVA fiber, or the like. INNOVA is a continuous filament fiber (manufactured by Deercreek Fabrics, Inc. or Menra Mills).

Page 7, the sixth full paragraph, lines 21 through 23, replace the paragraph with:

The eighth fabric is an antimicrobial, antifungal Polar Tec Series 2000, which is a wickable, moisture transfer fiber, containing Lycra, polypropylene, or the like.

Pages 8 and 9, the paragraph bridging these pages from page 8, line 9 through page 9, line 7, replace the paragraph with:

As discussed above, first foam material 20 may be a cellular elastomeric composite comprised of a layer of germicidal antimicrobial open cell hydrophilic polyurethane foam such as Aquazone and a nonwoven top sheet. All of the foam materials discussed herein are preferably polyurethane, although not specifically mentioned each time. The inclusive top sheet is preferably composed of Lycra, wood pulp, rayon, cotton, polypropylene, polyester, or a combination thereof. Alternatively, foam material 20 can be a foam that is separate

from the nonwoven top sheet and is attached to the nonwoven top sheet by lamination, stitch bonding or the like. The nonwoven top sheet (when used) abuts the next layer of 1/4" reticulated and/or open cell hydrophilic foam, or second foam material 30. The second foam material 30 may also be a germicidal antimicrobial reticulated and/or open cell hydrophilic 1/4" foam, such as Aquazone with or without Frisby Technologies applied or Comfortemp. The second foam material is preferably backed with a nonwoven top sheet as mentioned above. In fact, any of the foam materials discussed herein can be backed by such a nonwoven top sheet, but the nonwoven top sheet is not absolutely necessary. Also, many of the foam materials are interchangeable depending upon specific needs. Alternatively, the foam materials can be flame laminated to a non woven apertured top sheet of cotton, polypropylene or polyester, or a blend thereof, for example.

Pages 13 and 14, the paragraph bridging these pages from page 13, line 19 through page 14, line 2, replace the paragraph with:

Also shown in Figure 4 is a protective rim or cuff 80, preferably made of neoprene covered by Lycra. Also, a germicidal hydrophilic open cell and/or reticulated foam by Foamex or Vita Olympic, for example, can be used. A pull tab 90, preferably made of nylon, is connected to the protective rim 80. An abrasive protective material 100 is provided adjacent to a tongue 300. Another abrasive protective

material 110 is provided around the heel portion of the shoe. Abrasive protective material 110 is supplied by Schoeller or Dupont, for example.

Pages 17 and 18, the paragraph bridging these pages from page 17, line 23 through page 18, line 22, replace the paragraph with:

Figures 6, 7 and 8 illustrate the tongue 300 of the boot in more detail. The tongue is designed to add further comfort and support. As shown in Figure 8, an inner liner fabric 310 of the tongue 300 is preferably one of the other inner liner materials mentioned above, especially the polypropylene Lycra blend with INNOVA fiber, the polyester microfiber or the polyester looped terry or the like. This inner liner fabric 310 is preferably laminated to a structural support foam 320, which is preferably a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch antimicrobial reticulated and/or slow recovery punctured foams. A hydrophilic open cell or reticulated perforated foam 330 abuts a structural support foam 320. The hydrophilic open cell or the slow recovery perforated foams 330 can take the shape of the foot bones and protect the upper foot from damage. A moldable spacer material may also be used in combination with foam 330 or in some cases in place of the foam 330. The structural support 320 can also be shaped to accommodate the foot and protect the ankle bones. A moisture transfer material 340 lies over the outer edges of the hydrophilic perforated foam or combination foam and spacer material 330 and is connected to the inner

liner 310 and underlies the outer protective polyurethane layer 350. This moisture transfer material 340 is preferably made from a material known as aero-spacer Dri-lex, which is manufactured by Faytex Corp, or an aero-spacer fabric manufactured by Apex Mills or the like. Optionally, a nonwoven material such as Sontara Technology manufactured by Dupont can be used.

Pages 19 and 20, the paragraph bridging these pages from page 19, line 20 through page 20, line 7, replace the paragraph with:

As shown in Figure 6, polyurethane, kevlar fabrics or synthetic breathable leather layer (by Daewoo Corp. for example) 350 is surrounded by aero-spacer Dri-lex 340, or a substitute as mentioned above. At the top of the tongue 300 is an abrasive grip fabric 100 (such as a that is manufactured by Schoeller and identified by the number 6500), also shown in Figure 4. Stitching is identified by numeral 370. Figure 7 illustrates a top portion of the tongue 300, and shows stitching 370 and the inner liner fabric 310. It is recommended that Lycra and nylon thread such as those used by the Dupont Xymid Group or Tietex be used for these stitched areas or adhesive bonding by Applied Extrusion Technologies, or the like. In fact, adhesive bonding may be utilized in place of or in combination with several stitched areas on the outer liner fabrics.

Page 22, second full paragraph, lines 9 through 20,  
replace the paragraph with:

The microfiber technology disclosed above is rapidly developing and changing and has greatly increased the potential for improved performance of such products such as in-line skates, provided that they are properly utilized as in the present invention. These new products are part of rapidly developing fabric technology. The present invention employs a combination of fabrics, foam layers, nonwovens, spacer fabrics, breathable membranes, encapsulated technology, structural woven water repellent fabrics, or waterproof films and coatings in such combinations that increase the performance of the products in which they are used as well as increase breathability. The waterproof/breathable membranes have also only recently developed and are believed to be less than ten years old.

Page 25, first full paragraph, lines 3 through 12,  
replace the paragraph with:

The outer shell combined materials are then laminated, stitched or ultrasonically bonded, or the like, to interior foam layers. An air bladder may be added in combination with or in place of the molded foam and structural mesh to aid in comfort and performance. If the internal layers of foam and nonwovens are stitch bonded, it is recommended that the process with Lycra thread by the Xymid Group of Dupont be used or the process developed by Tietex with nylon thread, or the